

To: Hague, Mark[Hague.Mark@epa.gov]; Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]; Brincks, Mike[brincks.mike@epa.gov]
Cc: Juett, Lynn[Juett.Lynn@epa.gov]; Stoy, Alyse[Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov]
From: Peterson, Mary
Sent: Sun 10/25/2015 7:15:35 PM
Subject: Fwd: Bridgeton Grass Fire Response - Update

Forwarding Toms update. I am driving back to KC for the 500 call.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mahler, Tom" <mahler.tom@epa.gov>
Date: October 25, 2015 at 2:03:38 PM CDT
To: "Peterson, Mary" <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>
Cc: "Williams, David (R7)" <Williams.Dave@epa.gov>, "Hayes, Scott" <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>, "Vann, Bradley" <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>, "Juett, Lynn" <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>, "Stoy, Alyse" <Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov>
Subject: Bridgeton Grass Fire Response - Update

I'll try to give a summary of Adam and my actions since yesterday.

OSC Ruiz met Mike Ruddy with MDNR at 19:00. Mike Ruddy was working at the MDNR ER trailer located across the street from the Bridgeton Landfill in the parking lot of the Hussmann property (East side of St. Charles Rock Road). SOSC Ruddy was at the trailer before, during, and after the grass fire at Bridgeton. OSC Ruiz and SOSC Ruddy visited the location of the grass fire from outside the Bridgeton Landfill fence. OSC Ruiz estimated the burned area to be approximately 100 feet along the fence that follows the road for the entrance to the Bridgeton Landfill at Taussig Road. The burned area was on a berm and neither had a view of the extent of the burned area on the other side of this berm (towards the Northwest and Area 1 of the West Lake Landfill).

I drove by the burn area and looked inspected it from the outside of the landfill fence at approximately 07:45. I agree with OSC Ruiz's description of the affected area. I then met with SOSC Ruddy at the MDNR Trailer at about 08:05. He confirmed that the MDNR's AreaRae network did not detect anything above background fluctuations with the gamma readings during or after the fire. I then contacted Brian Powers with Republic Services to arrange for access to the Bridgeton Landfill later today. I then drove to the Pattonville Fire District Office and spoke with the battalion chief, Corey Irelan, who was on duty at the

time. He then provided me with Matt Lavanche's cell phone number. He told me that Matt was traveling to a conference today and might be hard to get in contact with. Chief Ireland told me that he had access to the fire report from yesterday and would look into any details related to the air monitoring that was conducted. I will be following up with him shortly.

At 11:15, Dave Kinroth (EPA START Contractor) and I met with Jim Getting (Republic Services) in order to gain access to the landfill. Dave and I both wore our TLD badges and electronic personal dosimeters to the landfill.

At 11:30 we started our investigation of the burned area of the Bridgeton Landfill. It consisted of 4 activities.

1. I performed a gamma screening with a Ludlum Model 192 (aka MicroR meter) by walking transects over the entire burned area. Readings fluctuated between 7-10 microR/hr, consistent with background. Nothing anomalous was identified from this screening.
2. Dave K. and I collected a GPS track of the outline of the burn area. We collected a second track along the southern portion of the fence that surrounds Area 1 of the West Lake Landfill North and West of the burn area.
3. We collected three soil samples. The first was collected on the south side of berm near the edge of the burn area right up against the Bridgeton Landfill Fence. It appeared that the majority of the water used to put out the fire on the south side of the berm ran off and onto the street at this location. The second sample was collected near the center of the burn area at the top of the berm. The third and final sample was collected on the North and West side of the berm but outside the burn area. This sample was collected from the storm water drainage pathway for that part of the Bridgeton Landfill and was roughly 10 – 15 feet from the burn area. All of the water used to put out the fire that flowed off the north side of the berm would have continued to drain by this path. We collected GPS locations for these samples as well. We also screened these samples using a Ludlum 4221 with a Pancake GM (detects gamma and beta). Readings from the samples fluctuated between 9 – 15 microR/hr, again consistent with background. Nothing from this screening indicated the presence of RIM.
4. Finally, we took a few pictures of the burn area to establish its relation to the nearby roads and the West Lake Landfill to the north.

At approximately 12:30 we provided a summary of our actions to Jim Getting with Republic Services and left the landfill.

I am currently waiting for the GPS information and pictures from Dave Kinroth to use to develop a draft map. I will work with START and EPA GIS personnel to develop a final map tomorrow morning. The samples will be sent to the lab tomorrow morning as well. I will be coordinating with START and Test America to find out the fastest turnaround time for this data.

Let me know if there are any additional questions. I am standing by here in St. Louis at the MDNR ER Trailer.

Tom

From: Mahler, Tom
Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>
Cc: Williams, David (R7) <Williams.Dave@epa.gov>; Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Vann, Bradley <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Thoughts on tomorrow

Plans for the day:

Meet a republic services representative at the Bridgeton landfill to get access.

Collect GPS track of burn area and the internal Westlake fence line.

Perform a gamma screening of burn area with micro R meter (gamma only).

Collect three soil samples, one from burn area, one from lowest/most down gradient edge of burn area, and one from a down gradient location (run off pathway).

Each sample will be screened with a pancake probe (gamma/beta).

Samples will be dropped off at Test America lab first thing Monday morning. Typical turn around time for lab data is 10 days. We will ask for quick turn around but I won't know more info on that time until Monday. It's unlikely that RERT can provide data faster but I will check with them Monday morning.

I'm waiting on additional details about air monitoring that was conducted by Pattonville FD. I'll send any information I find ASAP.

I will also plan to stage a radeco high volume air sampler, air filters, and a Ludlum 3030 alpha/beta drawer counter at the Fenton office. These instruments could be utilized during future events at landfill where there is potential for release of radioactive particulates into the air.

I will check in again when this is complete.

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 25, 2015, at 6:41 AM, Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Tom. I appreciate the update and your thoughts on a course of action. I have a call with RA at 8 and I expect to get some additional direction. I will keep you all informed on that.

My current thoughts on priority actions:

1. Map the location of the fire in relation to areas of known RIM.
2. Collect wipe and/or soil samples from areas most likely to have received deposition from the fire or runoff from fire fighting fluids.
3. Consult with MDNR, Pattonville FD, and Republic to determine if they have need of additional equipment that could have been helpful in assessing any potential threats. Basically we need a list of who has what equipment currently so that we can make some informed decisions about what additional equipment would be helpful and where it should be staged (with FD, MDNR, or EPA Fenton). START capabilities should be part of this assessment – what they could do and how quickly they could respond. This assessment starts to get into the contingency planning that we have already begun, so it is timely I suppose. I believe the RA is very interested in pre-deploying equipment and possibly purchasing more equipment to stage somewhere local for fast response if needed. We will need to formulate some recommendations for him in the next day or so.

Don't forget to use Brad as a resource. I have copied him here. Please include him in all comms related to this response.

Thanks.

<image001.png>

From: Mahler, Tom

Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2015 12:09 AM

To: Williams, David (R7) <Williams.Dave@epa.gov>; Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: Thoughts on tomorrow

As you all heard, Adam was on-site early this evening. He was able to meet up with Mike Ruddy (MDNR) and hear what he observed as the grass fire was going on and while it was being put out. Mike confirmed with Adam that the AreaRae network MDNR runs which measures gamma radiation did not show anything above background during or after the fire was put out. At the time Adam was on-site, no members of the public or first responders were on or near the scene of the fire.

I understand that I am going to coordinate with Lavanche and the Pattonville FD tomorrow. I will find out if any air monitoring has been done and get their information as to what they did to respond to this fire. I also plan to meet up with Mike Ruddy. According to Adam, Mike will be in the MDNR trailer across the street throughout the day. I have spoken with Dave Kinroth who is the START R1 for this weekend. He is planning to meet me around 8:00-8:30 tomorrow morning.

Once I gather whatever information is left to collect about the events of today, I plan to evaluate the appropriateness of three different courses of action:

1. Confirm the location of the fire and its proximity to Area 1 and/or known RIM
 - a. I could do this with a simple site walk
 - b. I could also take a GPS track of the fire location and plot that on a map
 - c. If it can be determined that the location of the fire does not have potential to impact RIM, then this would eliminate the need for additional investigation. I would just drop some of the air monitoring equipment I brought at the Fenton office and start to head home.
2. If it is determined that there is a potential for this fire to have impacted RIM, there are two possible ways that RIM could have potentially been mobilized.
 - a. Particulates could have been carried off with the smoke while the fire was burning in the direction of the wind.
 - i. These materials have since landed on the ground as the fire has long since been extinguished.
 - b. Particulates could have been washed down gradient from fluids applied to the fire area while it was being extinguished.
 - i. These area will likely be easy to identify by sight.
 - c. If necessary I could collect some number of samples from the fire area to determine whether any RIM was present which could have been affected by the fire. I could also collect samples from any low lying areas where runoff may have occurred

from the firefighting fluids.

3. If it is determined that there is no potential for the fire to have come in contact with RIM but there is still concern that the activities of the first responders may have had the potential to impact an area with RIM:

a. I could collect soil samples just from the low lying areas where firefighting fluids may have drained from.

That's my plan of action as I see it right now. I will still have to work out a sampling plan and QAPP should number 2 or number 3 be chosen. Looking forward to hearing your thoughts. I'll probably be headed to the MDNR trailer and/or the land fill sometime between 7:00 and 8:00 but I will make sure to be available for any calls that need to take place. James provided me with contact information for several republic services contractors that will likely be on-site as well as Brian Powers. I believe he also let Brian know that I would be coming by.

Tom